

Letters to The Times

Crosstown Artery Opposed

Scheduled Facilities, It Is Held,
Make Expressway Unnecessary

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES:

Your editorial of June 6 in reference to the proposed Lower Manhattan Expressway shows a continuation of the slanted viewpoint which The New York Times has indulged in for years in this one regard. You have always quoted and requested the pros. Let me give you some of the contras.

An expressway connecting the bottlenecks between the Holland Tunnel and the two East River bridges would not lessen congestion. It would just lead to a bumper-to-bumper slow movement on the highway.

You have completely ignored Delancey Street and Houston Street, now undergoing street repairs which when completed will help the intra-city crosstown traffic in lower Manhattan.

As for the traffic scheduled to bypass lower Manhattan, there may never be a need for increasing the tunnel and bridge capacities because the Verrazano Bridge and the George Washington Bridge - Upper Manhattan Expressway, when finished, could very well make the Lower Manhattan Expressway superfluous, and prevent \$100 million being wasted.

The main reason for the Federal highway program from the national point of view is for very rapid use in times of emergency. It is not necessary for me even to draw upon my wartime experience to point out that the Verrazano Bridge facility as well as the Upper Manhattan Bridge would be the roadways used, and not a facility such as the Holland Tunnel, with its four lanes as against the ten lanes available on either of the other highways.

Your continual quoting of the City Planning Commission not only in this editorial but in your previous reports in regard to this being "urgently needed" doesn't hold water. It seems that any proposal for roads or highways in and about New York is always considered progress.

In this case, not only is it not progress from a logistics point of view but it is a disruptive force which would uproot and displace over twenty thousand living, hoping, striving human beings who live and work in the area involved.

GOTTLIEB HELPERN, M. D.
New York, June 6, 1960.